

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CZ, IT

SUBJECT: CZECH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER TO VISIT ROME

A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE ANDREJ BARCAK WILL ARRIVE IN ROME MARCH 26 ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT AS THE GUEST OF THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. BARCAK'S HOST WILL BE MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH MARIO PEDINI. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES SINCE THE WARSAW PACT INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. EVEN AT THIS DATE THE IDEA OF SUCH A VISIT CREATED A CONTROVERSY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WITH ITALIAN MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE DE MITA (A LEADER OF A CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEFT-WING FACTION) REFUSING TO ISSUE AN INVITATION TO BARCAK. WITH THE INVITATION ISSUED IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT AND ANOTHER MINISTER SERVING AS BARCAK'S HOST, DE MITA HAS AGREED TO RECEIVE THE CZECHOSLOVAK MINISTER. OUR FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THIS VISIT COULD WELL BE FOLLOWED LATER IN THE YEAR BY ONE FROM THE CZECHOSLOVAK FOREIGN MINISTER WHICH WOULD REPRESENT A FURTHER STEP IN THE NORMALIZATION OF CZECHOSLOVAK-ITALIAN RELATIONS. VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Film Number:** D750103-0065  
**From:** ROME  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CZECH FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER TO VISIT ROME A FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCE HAS INFORMED US THAT CZECHOSLOVAK  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CZ, IT, WTO, (BARCAK, ANDREJ)  
**To:** STATE PRAGUE  
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